

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 23, 1976

Office of the ~~White House~~ Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced his intention to nominate James J. Blake, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to Iceland. He will succeed Frederick Irving who was appointed Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs on March 29, 1976. Mr. Blake has been Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of African Affairs since 1974.

Born on March 5, 1922, in New York, New York, Mr. Blake received his B. A. degree in 1946, from Queens College and his M. A. degree in 1963, from George Washington University. He served in the United States Army from 1943 to 1946. He was an instructor at Peru State Teachers College in Nebraska during 1946 to 1947.

In 1947, Mr. Blake joined the Foreign Service and was assigned to Brussels as a Consular-Commercial Officer. From 1953 to 1957, he was an International Economist at the Department of State, prior to becoming an Economic Officer in Calcutta in 1957. He attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces during 1960 to 1961, and served as a Foreign Affairs Officer at the Department of Defense from 1961 to 1963.

Mr. Blake became the Deputy Director of the Office of North African Affairs in 1963, and was named Director of the Office of North African Affairs in 1965. He served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Tripoli from 1966 to 1969. From 1969 and 1974, he was Country Director of North African Affairs.

Mr. Blake is married to the former Dolores Quaid and they have four children.

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